

House
REPUBLICAN
Conference

FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Friday, May 22, 1998

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

House Meets at 9:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

**S. 1150—Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reauthorization Act
(Conference Report)**

H.R. 2183—Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act

**H.R. 2400—Building Efficient Surface Transportation and Equity Act
(Conference Report)**

Motion to Go to Conference on H.R. 2676 (IRS Restructuring and Reform Act)



**S. 1150—Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reauthorization Act
(Conference Report)**

Floor Situation: The House will consider the conference report to S. 1150 as its first order of business today. Conference reports are privileged and may be considered any time three days after they are filed; they are debatable for one hour, may not be amended, and are subject to one motion to recommit. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report and its consideration, except for those raised based on House Rule XXVIII (regarding broadening the scope of a matter disagreed upon by the House and Senate) and pertaining to the restoration of Food Stamps to legal immigrants. If such a point of order is sustained, the conference report will be considered as rejected and the House will then consider whether to agree to an amendment to the Senate bill consisting of the text of the conference report as modified.

Summary: The conference report to S. 1150 reauthorizes and reforms existing agricultural research, extension, and education programs through FY 2002. Specifically, the measure (1) improves overall coordination of all federally-supported agricultural research; (2) increases user input by requiring the Agriculture Secretary to consult with (and solicit recommendations from) stakeholders when establishing priorities for federally-funded research, extension, and education activities; (3) subjects all federal research, extension, and education programs to scientific and merit peer-review; (4) clarifies that state universities must match any federal funds with an equal amount of non-federal funds to ensure consistency between research and education programs (with certain

exceptions); (5) authorizes new competitive research grant programs in plant and animal genetics, precision agriculture, organic agriculture, new biobased industrial products, and crop diversification; and (6) seeks to ensure that federal funds maximize the impact of federal investment by coordinating and integrating research, extension, and education projects and programs, minimize unnecessary duplication, and foster appropriate partnerships with other institutions and organizations to solve specific problems.

The conference agreement also makes a number of program changes to provide an estimated \$1.9 billion in savings over five years (i.e., \$1.7 billion from reductions in administrative food stamp cost spending, \$145 million from food stamp employment and training, and \$82 million from lowering the cap on Commodity Credit Corporation funding used to purchase information technology equipment). The conference report uses these savings to provide new funding for several initiatives, which include (1) \$600 million in new mandatory funding over five years for a high priority Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems; (2) \$485 billion for crop insurance; (3) \$100 million for the Fund for Rural America; and (4) \$818 million over five years to restore food stamp benefits to approximately 250,000 legal immigrants. The House passed its version of reauthorizing legislation (H.R. 2534) by a vote of 291-125 on November 8, 1997. The Senate passed S. 1150 by unanimous consent on October 29, 1997, and passed the conference report by a vote of 92-8 on May 12, 1998. The conference report was submitted by Mr. Smith (OR) on April 22, 1998.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #4, February 4, 1998, and #13, Pt. III, May 21, 1998.



H.R. 2183—Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act

Floor Situation: The House will conduct general debate on H.R. 2183 after it completes consideration of the conference report to S. 1150. Yesterday, the House adopted a modified open rule that provides two hours of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the House Oversight Committee. The rule makes in order 11 substitute amendments and provides an hour of general debate on each substitute. The rule accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments to the substitutes pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The rule prohibits perfecting amendments to the substitutes that include tax or tariff measures. The rule states that if more than one substitute amendment is adopted, the one which receives the greatest number of votes will prevail and be reported back to the House. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 2183 amends the 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) to (1) ban the use of certain “soft money” by national political parties and federal candidates; (2) increase the aggregate annual limit on contributions made by individuals to political parties; and (3) repeal limitations on the amount of coordinated expenditures that may be made by political parties. The bill indexes contribution limits to inflation beginning in 1999. The bill requires that radio and television communications paid for by third parties be fully disclosed. It revises current Federal Election Commission

(FEC) filing requirements to mandate monthly reports by principal campaign committees and other political committees and requires electronic filing for certain reports. The bill also eliminates the “best efforts” exception with respect to obtaining information regarding the occupation or the name of employers of certain individual contributors. The bill was introduced by Hutchinson *et al.* and was not considered by a House committee.

Views: An official view from the Republican leadership was unavailable at press time. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was also unavailable.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #13, May 15, 1998.



H.R. 2400—Building Efficient Surface Transportation and Equity Act (Conference Report)

Floor Situation: The House is expected to consider the conference report to H.R. 2400 sometime today. The Rules Committee has not yet scheduled a time to meet on the bill. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a rule waiving the requirement for a two-thirds majority vote to consider a rule the same day it is reported.

Summary: At press time, conferees continued to meet to resolve differences over the conference report to H.R. 2400. The *Legislative Digest* will provide updated information as it becomes available. The House passed H.R. 2400 by a vote of 337-80 on April 1, 1998. The Senate passed its version (S. 1173) by a vote of 78-22 on March 12, 1998.



Motion to Go to Conference on H.R. 2676 (IRS Restructuring and Reform Act)

Floor Situation: Mr. Archer or a designee may offer a motion to go to conference on H.R. 2676 sometime today. A motion to instruct may be made immediately after this request and before the chair appoints conferees. Instructions are considered the prerogative of the minority and are debatable for one hour.

Summary: The motion, if agreed to, will establish a House-Senate conference to resolve differences between the House version of H.R. 2676—which passed the House by a vote of 426-4 on November 5, 1997—and the Senate version, which passed the Senate by a vote of 97-0 on May 7, 1998. Once agreed to, the motion permits the chair to appoint conferees. Details of a possible motion to instruct were unavailable at press time.

Views: The Republican Leadership supports the motion to go to conference, and opposes any motion to instruct conferees that would weaken the position of House negotiators.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #31, Pt. III, November 5, 1997.



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Amendment
Alert!

Please attach the text of the amendment (if available) and fax to the *Legislative Digest* at x5-7298

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

Member Sponsoring Amendment: _____ Bill#: _____

Additional Co-sponsors (if any): _____

Staff Contact: _____ Phone#: _____ Evening Phone#: _____

Description of the amendment: _____

(Please include any additional or contextual information)

Reason for offering amendment (e.g., How will this change the bill or current law? Why should members support this change?): _____

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